



**TESTIMONY OF ERIC J. BROWN**  
**ASSOCIATE COUNSEL, DIRECTOR OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**  
**CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**  
**before the**  
**ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
**February 21, 2013**

Good morning. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as director of energy and environmental policy with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association ("CBIA"). On behalf of our 10,000 large and small member companies throughout Connecticut, we are pleased to provide comment on four bills on today's public hearing agenda related to the telecommunication sector of Connecticut's economy.

Having a first class telecommunication system in Connecticut is critical to our economic future. We are fortunate that several major communication companies have made significant investments in Connecticut resulting in thousands of good Connecticut jobs and millions of dollars in revenue to local and state coffers. We also have a vibrant network of smaller communications companies engaged in keeping their communities educated and informed on issues of local concern.

Connecticut needs to appreciate its good fortune in this regard and take advantage of the opportunities it provides to put and keep our state at the forefront of telecommunications infrastructure, technology and job creation. While other states are taking a "do-no-harm" approach to regulations affecting this industry, Connecticut should go further and make sure these companies continue to make Connecticut their home and continue to invest in technology and infrastructure that will help Connecticut be highly competitive with anywhere else in the world with respect to communication capabilities.

CBIA appreciates that the bills on today's public hearing agenda, with one significant exception, move our state towards that important goal. Specifically:

**PROPOSED S.B. No. 657**, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION OF CABLE TELEVISION AND VIDEO SERVICE CUSTOMERS.

**CBIA OPPOSES THIS BILL**

This bill would place burdensome requirements onto Connecticut's large and small telecommunications companies resulting in increase costs to them, their customers and the state, while making Connecticut a less attractive place for investment and job creation for one of the strongest growth sectors of our economy. Government micro-management of any company, in this case even down to the level of the font size to be used in communicating with their customers, is excessive and precisely the type of measure that sends a signal to the marketplace that Connecticut is an unfriendly place to do business.

**S.B. No. 888** AN ACT CONCERNING WIRELESS BROADBAND

**CBIA SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

This bill includes a number of measures to provide greater flexibility and administrative efficiency with respect to the siting of telecommunication infrastructure in the state. The measures relate to the procedures and time schedules associated with applications before the Connecticut Siting Council, and also provide for greater geographic flexibility with respect to the siting of telecommunication infrastructure.

**H.B. No. 6401** AN ACT CONCERNING VIDEO AND CABLE PROVIDERS

**CBIA SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

This bill codifies how voice-over internet products are currently regulated in Connecticut, thereby providing greater regulatory certainty and a fostering a more competitive telecommunications marketplace in Connecticut.

**H.B. No. 6402** AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS

**CBIA SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

This bill streamlines the requirements for auditing, service classification, service tariffs and administrative reporting requirements associated with telecommunications services in Connecticut.